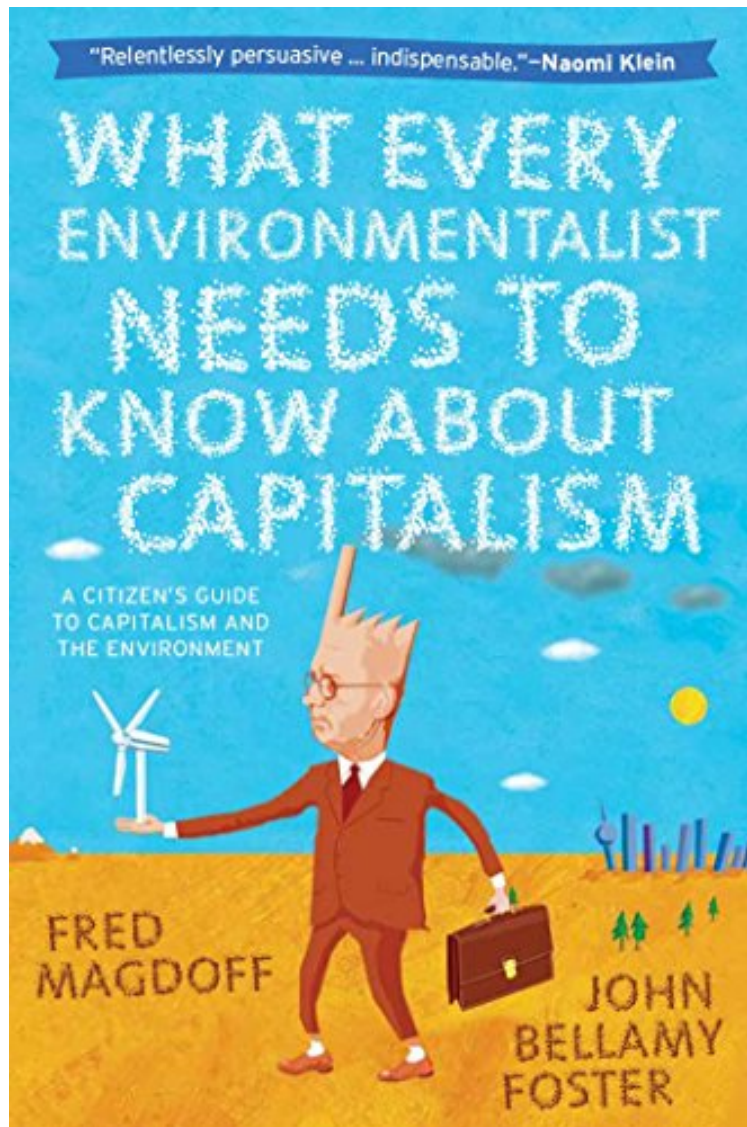


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What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism

Fred Magdoff, John Bellamy Foster

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Fred Magdoff, John Bellamy Foster : What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. I finally made the connections and changed my actual behaviors after reading this book! By Jessica Pettitt What Every Environmentalist Needs To Know About Capitalism swirled my head so much and with such depth that I ended up writing a new keynote. Seriously - all that I kept thinking was Einstein's quote, "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is the definition of insanity." This makes sense to me- If Capitalism is the philosophy or way of living that we have embraced that then

has played any role in destroying the planet - how or why would more of it help fix the problem? Even scarier is that we can take this superior skill set and destroy Mars next... really? Fred Magdoff and John Bellamy Foster (professors from University of Vermont and Oregon respectively) very clearly and realistically explain environmental impacts and disasters (man made and natural) and our collective consumerism in a way that even this Texan that didn't grow up recycling can "get it." The urgency in which something MUST change has forced me to really look at my waste, purchases, and growth desires to replace the mantra of MORE MORE MORE with Enough Enough Enough. I feel that the accessibility and practical nature of the science, demographics, statistics, and data allowed me to face my personal responsibility of environmental impact in a way that doesn't lead me to buying a Starbucks and pretending not to notice. Literally, it doesn't matter what I do - in some ways it is what I stop doing that helps the most. Living Better creates this competition that is rooted in growth and consumption. Living Well is about enough get to everyone as a personal responsibility. It isn't just about buying more recycled products, are placing old light bulbs with new ones, but leaving the lights on longer. Living Well is about doing less with less. Literally - think smaller - bigger has only caused us problems. I have created a few simple steps to help make this change in my own life. 1) BUY LESS S***... I mean s*** here on purpose. In 2012, I vowed to not buy anything. I don't mean food or office supplies, I mean s***. Stuff - meaningless stuff. In 2012, I have purchased a few things that were not necessary - but I actually can name thme - I remember them. I never noticed how mindless I spend money. I have purchased 2 t-shirts, 2 pairs of shoes, some clothes, and a necklace. That is pretty much it. For the records, I sold 3 pairs of shoes to buy those 2 pairs so I consider that a draw. 2) DON'T UPGRADE... You don't need the new gizmo just because there is a new gizmo. I kept my crappy cell phone for a year longer than I needed to. I am still typing this on a 3 year old lap top that is covered in duct tape. My color print prints in one color now - black seems to work. If you keep everything one year longer than you think you need to - you just left a small footprint. 3) WORK IT OUT... Repair, tape up, glue, fix, whatever is broken instead of just buying a new one. Make it work for as long as possible. If that doesn't work - make it work for a little bit longer than you usually would. This really matters. 4) SHARE... Donate items to others and borrow or share what you have with others. Even with the Do It Yourself movement, we don't all need our own table saw - borrow a neighbors, rent one, share yours, etc. Warning - this may involve communicating with other humans in a live manner and could lead to more personal relationships and community building. 5) TALK... What if we actually had conversations with each other about how much waste or how little waste we produce. We could talk about window shopping, or repair tips; we could talk about books we have checked out from the library or lent to a friend. We could reuse tote bags, cups, utensils. We could take one napkin or replace unused ketchup packets. It is the little things - Little things got us where we are today and little things turn into big things. This is just as true now as it has always been. What little things can you do today that are different? Doing something different will lead to a different result. Jessica Pettitt is the "diversity educator" your family warned you about. Through teaching, writing, and facilitating tough conversations, she has figured out how to BE the change she wants to BE. Now it is your turn! As she travels around the country, you can catch up with Jessica on: Facebook: [...] YouTube: [...] LinkedIn: [...] Twitter: [...] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jayce L. Great book and came quickly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not groundbreaking (has flaws), but paves the way By Arianne Aquino Oh what would happen If everyone living in a capitalist economy read this book... oh how different things would be today and for the future.

Praise for Foster and Magdoff's The Great Financial Crisis: In this timely and thorough analysis of the current financial crisis, Foster and Magdoff explore its roots and the radical changes that might be undertaken in response. . . . This book makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing examination of our current debt crisis, one that deserves our full attention. —Publishers Weekly There is a growing consensus that the planet is heading toward environmental catastrophe: climate change, ocean acidification, ozone depletion, global freshwater use, loss of biodiversity, and chemical pollution all threaten our future unless we act. What is less clear is how humanity should respond. The contemporary environmental movement is the site of many competing plans and prescriptions, and composed of a diverse set of actors, from militant activists to corporate chief executives. This short, readable book is a sharply argued manifesto for those environmentalists who reject schemes of "green capitalism" or piecemeal reform. Environmental and economic scholars Magdoff and Foster contend that the struggle to reverse ecological degradation requires a firm grasp of economic reality. Going further, they argue that efforts to reform capitalism along environmental lines or rely solely on new technology to avert catastrophe misses the point. The main cause of the looming environmental disaster is the driving logic of the system itself, and those in power—no matter how "green"—are incapable of making the changes that are necessary. What Every Environmentalist Needs To Know about Capitalism tackles the two largest issues of our time, the ecological crisis and the faltering capitalist economy, in a way that is thorough, accessible, and sure to provoke debate in the environmental movement.

About the Author Fred Magdoff taught at the University of Vermont in Burlington, is a director of the Monthly Foundation, and has written on political economy for many years. He is most recently the author (with John Bellamy

Foster) of *The Great Financial Crisis: Causes and Consequences* (Monthly Press). John Bellamy Foster is editor of *Monthly*. He is professor of sociology at the University of Oregon and author of *The Ecological Revolution*, *The Great Financial Crisis* (with Fred Magdoff), *Critique of Intelligent Design* (with Brett Clark and Richard York), *Ecology Against Capitalism*, *Marx's Ecology*, and *The Vulnerable Planet*.